

What is claimed is:

1. A method for detecting a residual drying time of a clothes dryer, comprising:

5 detecting a quantity of moisture contained in clothes in a clothes dryer; and

displaying a residual clothes drying time on the basis of the detected moisture quantity.

10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting an outlet temperature value of a drum of the clothes dryer;

wherein the displaying step includes displaying a residual clothes drying time on the basis of the detected moisture quantity and the detected temperature value.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein a quantity of moisture contained in the clothes is detected on the basis of a resistance value of a pair of electrodes contacted with the clothes in the drum when the drum of the clothes dryer is rotated in the moisture quantity detecting step, and the moisture quantity is in 20 inverse proportion to the resistance value.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein a residual drying time is displayed on the basis of the detected moisture quantity after displaying a preset early residual drying time in the displaying step.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying step includes the sub-steps of:

reading a residual drying time corresponded to the detected moisture quantity from a pre-stored look-up table; and

5 displaying the read residual drying time;

wherein a residual drying time corresponded to the detected moisture quantity is pre-stored in the look-up table.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the read residual drying time is  
10 reduced with the passage of time, and the reduced time is displayed in the displaying step.

7. An apparatus for detecting a residual drying time of a clothes dryer, comprising:

15 a means for detecting a quantity of moisture contained in clothes in a clothes dryer; and

a means for displaying a residual clothes drying time on the basis of the detected moisture quantity.

20 8. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising:

a means for detecting an outlet temperature value of the clothes dryer;

wherein the displaying means displays a residual clothes drying time on the basis of the detected moisture quantity and the detected temperature value.

25 9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the moisture quantity detecting

means includes a pair of electrodes contacted with the clothes in the drum when the drum of the clothes dryer is rotated and detects a quantity of moisture contained in the clothes on the basis of a resistance value of the electrodes varied according to a quantity of moisture in the clothes.

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10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the displaying means reads a residual drying time corresponded to the read moisture quantity from a look-up table pre-stored in a storage and displays the read residual drying time, wherein a residual drying time corresponded to the detected moisture quantity is pre-stored in the look-up table.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the displaying means reduces the read residual drying time with the passage of time and displays the reduced time.

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12. An apparatus for detecting a residual drying time of a clothes dryer, comprising:

a moisture detector for detecting a quantity of moisture contained in clothes in clothes dryer;

20 a temperature detector for detecting an outlet temperature of a drum of the clothes dryer;

a controller for reading a residual drying time corresponded to the moisture quantity and the outlet temperature value of the drum from a storage storing a pre-calculated residual drying time on the basis of the moisture quantity and the outlet 25 temperature value of the drum; and

a display for displaying the read residual drying time according to the control signal of the controller.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the storage includes a first  
5 look-up table showing an estimated drying time pre-calculated according to the moisture quantity and the outlet temperature value of the drum and a second look-up table showing an estimated cooling time pre-calculated according to the moisture quantity and the outlet temperature value of the drum.

10 14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the controller reduces the read residual drying time with the passage of time and displays the reduced time.

15. A method for detecting a residual drying time of a clothes dryer, comprising:

reducing a preset early clothes drying time in early operation of a clothes dryer with the passage of time and displaying the reduced time on a display in real-time;

detecting a quantity of moisture contained in clothes in a drum of the clothes dryer and an outlet temperature of the drum;

20 reading a residual clothes drying time corresponded to the detected moisture quantity and temperature value from a memory storing a residual drying time pre-calculated on the basis of the moisture quantity and outlet temperature value of the drum; and

displaying the read residual drying time in real-time;

25 wherein the residual drying time includes an estimated drying time and an

**estimated cooling time.**